

Demonstrated Commitment by a Child Care Worker—The individual applying for the scholarship assistance must be employed by a licensed or registered child care provider or have a commitment for employment from a licensed or registered child care provider. The individual must agree to continue to be employed in the field of child care for at least one year after receiving the training for which the assistance is provided.

Demonstrated Commitment from a Child Care Employer—In exchange for a commitment from a child care worker to obtain further education and thus provide better quality child care to the children within the center, the child care center must agree to pay a share of the cost of the education or training. In addition, the employer must agree to provide increased financial incentives to the child care worker, such as a salary increase or bonus when the individual completes the education or training.

The legislative language is very similar to the language proposed in the Affordable and Quality Child Care Act of 1998 from the 105th Congress (H.R. 4030), which garnered the support of 132 members. If our nation is serious about improving child care, we need to improve the education and salary of those who are charged with caring for our children. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM L. PECK

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to William L. Peck, a man distinguished by his 37-year dedication to our system of jurisprudence and, particularly, his service on the bench of the Ventura County Superior Court.

Judge Peck retired last month. His passion, wisdom and outspokenness in defense of the law will be missed within the Ventura County Hall of Justice.

Judge Peck graduated from Boalt Law School at the University of California in Berkeley in 1961, and joined the Ventura County District Attorney's Office in 1962. In 1965, he went into private practice, where he remained until his appointment to the Ventura County Superior Court bench in 1980.

He served in many capacities during his judicial service, including presiding judge in 1985 and 1986. During his tenure he also served as presiding judge of the Appellate Department of the Court, and retired as supervising judge of the Civil Trial Judges of the Superior Court.

Judge Peck believes the justice system fails when a civil case goes to trial, and worked tirelessly over the years to bring parties to agreement. His efforts are credited with greatly reducing the court's calendar.

The law was equally important in Judge Peck's work outside the courtroom. He served in several capacities on the Ventura County Bar Association, including president in 1972. For several years he served on the Conference of Delegates for the State Bar of Cali-

fornia. He served on the California Judges Association Board of Directors. In addition, Judge Peck held memberships in the Ventura County Criminal Defense Bar Association, Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association and the American Bar Association.

He also shared his love of the law with schoolchildren by participating as a judge for several years at the Mock Trials Competition for Ventura County High Schools. He supported the education of our youth as a member of the Ventura County School District Board of Education, the Ventura County School Boards Association, the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization and the California School Boards Association.

Judge Peck also served on a myriad of other community committees and boards throughout his distinguished career. His service was also recognized through numerous awards, including his selection as Citizen of the Year by the Ventura Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1983; and the Petit Award for Outstanding Community Service in 1980 from the Ventura Chamber of Commerce.

When not accepting assignments as a retired jurist, Judge Peck will share his retirement with his wife, Laura. They have two children, Eric and Adair.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in recognizing William Peck for his decades of service and wish him and his family Godspeed in his retirement.

HONORING WACO, TEXAS ON ITS
150TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the City of Waco on its 150th birthday. A dedicated and hard-working breed of Texan has taken Waco from a sleepy pioneer village settled in the 1840s to a bustling business and commercial hub ready to move into the 21st century. For a century and a half, Waco has taken the best and made it better, faced the worst and never retreated but always, always moved forward.

Waco has seen its fair share of boom times and depression, war and peace, hot summers and freezing winters. Waco has always shown an amazing ability to adapt, and to always remain true to the spirit of the first settlers who put down roots on the banks of the Brazos River.

The first settlers and those who followed in their footsteps would be amazed by how Waco has grown and prospered over the past 150 years. They would see that the famous Chisolm Trail where millions of cattle were driven to northern rail heads is now replaced with an Interstate Highway. Interstate 35 is the new concrete and asphalt Chisolm Trail that streams with goods going to market and people traveling to the four points of the compass.

The settlers would also see that several bridges now span the great Brazos River. A century ago the only way to cross the river was by ferry or on a single suspension bridge. These days, Waco has moved from ferry rides

to family vans and four-wheel drives that easily cross the river on steel and concrete bridges.

The settlers would also see that the Bosque River, has been dammed and a glittering lake now provides a stable supply of clean water to thousands of Central Texas families. The settlers would also be amazed to see mile after mile of homes, schools, hospitals and churches that have sprung up in the past 150 years. The settlers would see that the clothes are different, the homes are nicer, the people are healthier and life is safer.

What would not amaze those settlers are the people who now call Waco home. The early settlers would see in the 21st century Wacoan a strength handed down through the generations—a strength reinforced by faith and family. What is clear to me is that the settlers of yesterday and Wacoans of today share traits that will hold the future citizens in good stead for the next 150 years. Those traits include a devotion to family and faith, a willingness to work, a strong streak of independence and an ingenuity and doggedness to overcome any obstacle.

I ask members to join me in congratulating the people of Waco on 150 years. I also want to extend my best wishes and every wish for success to Waco—a city with a proud past and a promising future.

HONORING THE 1998 FAIRFAX CENTRAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD WINNERS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to rise and bring to the attention of my colleagues some very special Public Safety personnel in Fairfax City in the Eleventh Congressional District of Virginia. Every year the Fairfax Central Chamber of Commerce honors police officers, fire fighters, and dispatchers who have shown the highest level of dedication to their noble duties. These individuals who are role models to others in their profession will be honored this afternoon at the 1998 Public Safety Awards Luncheon.

The 1998 awards recipients are:

Career Firefighter of the Year: Technician John C. Henderson: Technician Henderson is being recognized with this prestigious award for his continued exemplary commitment to the accomplishment of Department goals and objectives. Technician Henderson's performance is characterized by unselfishness, teamwork, commitment to the improvement of City services, and support of the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department (FVFD). Most notable among Technician Henderson's performance indicators for 1998 is his involvement with training new members of the Department. Technician Henderson spent many hours working with new employees and new members of the FVFD to ensure that they possessed the skills necessary to perform essential tasks in a safe and effective manner.

Volunteer Fire Fighter/Paramedic of the Year: Fire Fighter Tara Duffy: Fire Fighter

Duffy is recognized for this award due to her involvement and attributes in a number of areas; including training, physical fitness, emergency scene conduct, attitude, and riding time. During the Fall 1998, when the Department was acclimating four new employees and working to certify them for minimum staffing roles, Fire Fighter Duffy used a week of vacation time to assist with this essential activity. Additionally, she spent many hours assisting several new volunteer members of the Department with gaining their Fire Fighter I and II certification. Fire Fighter Duffy also sacrificed her regular compensation and free time to be part of the Department contingency that was deployed to Ormond Beach, Florida this past summer to assist with fighting wildland fires.

Police Officer of the Year: PFC Carl R. Pardini: During 1998, K-9 Officer, PFC Pardini was recognized on numerous occasions for his outstanding performance of duty and initiatives in developing a more coordinated K-9 unit. An example of his outstanding performance involving a very difficult K-9 case occurred on March 9, 1998. This case was particularly difficult due to the rainy weather conditions, which affects the tracking ability, and the location of the suspect's hideaway. In order to have a more coordinated and effective K-9 unit, he drafted a canine operating procedure and developed a record system for documentation of all formal and informal canine training.

Dispatcher of the Year: Dispatcher Betty I. Powers: During 1998, Dispatcher Powers was commended more than once for her high level of professionalism and expertise while working in the Communication's Section. In particular, this recommendation was based on her professional handling of three serious felony incidents, two of which occurred almost simultaneously. Throughout all of these incidents, Dispatcher Powers was working alone and unassisted.

I am deeply impressed by the caliber of services that these fine public servants provide with admirable distinction. It takes a special calling and extraordinary commitment to choose public service as your life's work. I congratulate each award winner for their momentous recognition and extend my gratitude to you for your selfless dedication to the safety and well-being of the citizens of Fairfax City.

RECOGNITION OF HARMONY FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteer fire department of Harmony, Rhode Island on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

Founded in 1924, the Harmony Fire Department has provided an invaluable service to the citizens of the Harmony area. For three-quarters of a century, the dedicated volunteers have risked their lives for the sake of their neighbors. These men and women, the fire-

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fighters and emergency medical technicians of the force, donate their own time and resources for the community good. When the alarm bell rings, or, more appropriate to modern living, when the pager beeps, the volunteers leave the comfort of their homes and families, forgetting their own problems and concerns, with one singular goal in mind: helping others in need. Whether this service comes in the form of fighting fires, saving lives or providing comfort to the distressed, the Harmony volunteers always give to their fullest extent. In recent years, the demands on the department have steadily increased, straining the limited resources of the force. Nonetheless, the volunteers have risen to the occasion, redoubling their efforts and meeting new challenges.

Generally the goal of firefighters is to maintain the order and stability of the community around them. The Harmony force has taken its involvement one step further by providing a special service to the area. In preparation for the 75th anniversary celebration, the 28 volunteers have joined with other community members to compile a pictorial history of the Harmony Fire Department. By collecting pictures of the organization's past, the citizens of Harmony will be able to relive special moments and events in their collective history, thus fostering a better sense of community among them.

I laud the volunteering spirit of the Harmony Fire Department members as well as their understanding of community spirit. The bravery and steadfastness of the volunteers are greatly appreciated by both the residents of Harmony and myself. I congratulate them on 75 years of dedicated service and wish them many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, as a result of a hostage crisis that took place in my congressional district which required my direct intercession, I missed the final vote of the day, rollcall vote 21. After several hours of tense negotiations and through the fine work of the local, state and federal law enforcement officials, I am pleased to report that the hostages were all rescued without any loss of life or injury. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 21.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, earlier today, February 23, 1999, I missed rollcall votes 22 and 23. Today, I received a briefing from the Vice Commander of United States Southern Command that ran longer than expected. As a result, my departure from the Headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command in Miami was delayed. I unfortunately did not arrive back in Washington in time to vote on the two suspension bills, H.R. 193 and H.R. 171. Had I been present at the time the votes were called, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 22 and "yea" on rollcall 23.

February 24, 1999

THE IMPORTED FOOD SAFETY ACT OF 1999

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, almost a year ago a number of my colleagues and I introduced legislation aimed at improving the safety of the imported food consumed by Americans. The Congress failed to act. Regrettably, consumers continue to become sick, and in too many cases die, from eating contaminated food. These tragedies are avoidable. We have the means to arm FDA with sufficient authority and resources to protect our food supply. There are exciting advances in technology that may make tests for microbial and pesticide contamination easy to perform and affordable.

The bill we are introducing today is virtually the same as the one we introduced last year. To its critics, including many of my colleagues in the majority, I say, let us see your proposals. Let's do the people's business and improve the safety of our food supply. I challenge the majority to at least hold a hearing on the subject of food safety. Let's hear from consumers, public health experts, and all others with an interest in this matter. I am confident that none will dare defend the status quo.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) has reported that as many as 81 million cases of foodborne illness occur each year. Perhaps as many as 9,100 of these cases result in death. Under our current food import program there is virtually no preventive testing. Food shows up on the dock. Less than one percent of fresh fruit and vegetable are tested. The tests take a week or more to yield results. In the meantime the food is long gone, by then consumed. Let me repeat that point. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) too often waits for consumers to get sick or die before it tries to determine whether the food supply contains pathogenic contaminants. The outrageous and wholly intolerable conclusion one must draw is that American consumers are being used as guinea pigs.

There are special problems with imports. FDA lacks authority and resources to "trace back" the source of foodborne illness beyond the border. Furthermore, imported food inspected by FDA fails to meet certain government health standards nearly three times more often than domestically produced food. Any preventive detection FDA might attempt would be futile, because FDA lacks adequate tests to detect pathogens on imported food in a timely manner. Finally, FDA cannot even account for what happens to imported fruits and vegetables that are adulterated.

The Imported Food Safety Act of 1999 is critically important from a public health standpoint. It is also consistent with the international trade obligations of the United States. The World Trade Organization's Agreement on the Applications of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures reaffirmed that health and safety considerations take priority over trade. Member countries may, for justifiable health and safety reasons, impose more stringent requirements on imported products such as food than they require of domestic goods. This legislation is consistent with this exception.